FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARGENTINE GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN COSTA RICA HIT

PY252311 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 82 section 2 p 1

[Editorial: "Argentine Guerrillas in Costa Rica"]

[Text] According to reports from San Jose, Costa Rica, the security forces of that country have discovered the activities of an organization headed by Argentine guerrillas dealing with arms traffic. It is believed that the subversive group was not planning to limit the arms traffic to El Salvador but to extend it to several countries of the hemisphere to encourage terrorist activities. Investigations indicate the organization reportedly has a fund of several million U.S. dollars, vehicles for transporting arms, several properties (presumably warehouses), and a shop for fixing vehicles so as not to depend on others in case of breakdowns. One of the Argentines reportedly joined the Salvadoran guerrilla activities in 1979 and the other, who has not yet been arrested, took part in the attack against the family of anti-Sandinist Commander Fernando Chamorro Rapaccioli on 20 February in San Jose.

Considering the current situation in Central America, it is not surprising to see the events just mentioned since in the middle of last year several Argentine guerrillas were held responsible for the installation and operation of a clandestine radio station in Costa Rica. The radio station was certainly at the service of subversion in that region. It is no longer a secret that in Costa Rica -- which has no army but only a modest, civil security organization (in number, arms and capabilities) -- terrorism and guerrilla activities have long stopped being a mere possibility, but have become an undeniable reality.

These events have exposed their common ideology -- in addition to verbal tricks aimed at hiding it -- and the existence of a single source for the supply of arms and money and also a "far away general staff" which coordinates its activities, determines its priorities for many of its acts and uses it within the framework of international politics and the "cold war" as an additional first class force which has the main mission -- beyond destabilizing, politically and economically, countries and entire regions -- of taking over power. There is no return from that power, from the communist power.

All of this reflects the seriousness of a situation which cannot be held back and much less overcome by appealing to the wrong manifesto about the "self-determination of peoples." In Cuba, which encourages this and other plans, for 20 years the individual has meant nothing, abundance is always in the future, the rationing of clothing has gone to the extreme of assigning a pair of slacks a year to men and a piece of material for women to make a skirt. Let us not talk about elections. The people can only go into the streets when the official radio stations "invite them" to listen to Fidel Castro.

REAL INTENTION OF USSR MISSILE PROPOSAL VIEWED

PY252356 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 82 p 8

[Text] The recurrent USSR peace offensives in a world haunted by the threat of a nuclear disaster have never ceased being closely related to its strategic plans. Even though its nuclear arsenal is three times larger than that installed by NATO on the European Continent, the Kremlin insists on assuming the innocent appearance of a preacher of disarmament. Undoubtedly Brezhnev's decision to announce a moratorium, or freezing, of the deployment of missiles in Europe and the suspension of the replacement of the current SS-4 and SS-5 missiles by the more modern SS-20 missiles is in keeping with that attitude. This decision, according to Brezhnev's announcement, will be maintained until an agreement with the United States is reached and so long as the U.S. leaders do not actually start to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe.

While the USSR chief of state was making this announcement at the Soviet labor unions' congress held in Moscow, reliable sources reported that platforms for five new SS-20 missiles -- with a range that could strike deadly blows at vital Western centers -- were being installed on Soviet territory. Therefore, the destructive power of the nuclear platforms being installed will soon be added to the 900 warheads ominously surrounding the continental region outside the Soviet orbit. It is easy to figure out the reasons for this USSR proposal in the nature of international blackmail, and this belief seems to be confirmed by the threat, made later on, to install missile bases in Cuba if the USSR proposal to turn Western Europe into a state of virtual defenselessness is not taken into account. It is quite obvious that Moscow's intention goes beyond its strategic plans. It is also aimed at disturbing the minds of broad sectors of the world population which are ready to go out in the streets driven by an authentic desire for peace without realizing that they are usually used by the subtle promoters of the Kremlin's bellicose plans.

After a long period of apparent lethargy, the Western powers finally seem to be figuring out the Politburo's plans. In this regard, the FRG's firm stand is a perfect answer to the obscure proposal of a regime whose true purposes, definitely imperialist -- which the new generation should especially be aware -- are exhibited, as in shop windows, in the dramatic situations in Poland and Afghanistan.

RALLY TO VOICE 'REPULSION' FOR GOVERNMENT CALLED

PY252225 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA) -- The General Labor Confederation (CGT) today reported that it has called for a rally at Plaza de Mayo on 30 March at 1700 to "voice our replusion for the military government." A communique released by the CGT, signed by Secretary General Saul Ubaldini and by Press Secretary Raul Follawm, notes that the CGT Executive Council made this decision following a careful review of the progress of the mobilization plan. The call was made through a short message which said: "Argentines, we call on all of you to mobilize at Plaza de Mayo on 30 March at 1700 under the slogan 'the country summons the people,' to voice our replusion for the military government." The CGT will stage the rally in front of Casa Rosada together with other union organizations and political parties. However, the possibility is not dismissed that political leaders, especially of the Peronist and Intransigent Parties, will announce their support for the rally of protest within the next few hours.

OIL EXPERT REPORTEDLY RECEIVES DEATH THREATS

PY222058 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 22 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Oil policy expert Adolfo Silenzi de Stagni moved out of his house yesterday to hide out in a downtown hotel after receiving "repeated death threats", his family claimed. Silenzi de Stagni, a lawyer, has levelled harsh criticisms at the government's petroleum policies recently. Before leaving his house, Silenzi de Stagni described "an attempt to shut me up with death threats...but I will not be intimidated. I'm not scared of being killed; the Economy Minister (Roberto Alemann) is more afraid of what I have to say."

Silenzi de Stagni's stepson, Tomas Benegas Ayerza, claims to have received the last of a series of anonymous telephone calls at 12:30 pm yesterday, just after his stepfather left for downtown Buenos Aires. "Your father is already dead," Ayerza claims he was told, adding that an earlier caller had asked him what weapon he preferred his father to be killed with. Silenzi de Stagni recently sent a letter to the military junta which objected to the transfer of the General Mosconi drilling platform to the Esso Company. He also criticized a lack of publicity of post-1976 oil contracts. The letter was released to the press.

RUMORS OF POSSIBLE TORRELIO RESIGNATION DENIED

PY252322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2217 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (AFP) -- In the face of rumors about the possible resignation of President Celso Torrelio Villa, Information Minister Juan Carlos Duran stated here today that the chief of state has at no time considered resigning nor will he resign as president of the nation. Instead, he said, President Torrelio is devoted to solving the country's problems, not only those related to the economy but those stemming from the floods that have been affecting large areas of the national territory. Commenting on the resignation of General Torrelio, Duran said: It is just a rumor. There are also rumors about possible fresh economic measures. He concluded by stating that everything is part of a campaign against the economic measures adopted by the Bolivian Government to create a climate of uneasiness and instability in the country.

CLIMATE OF ANXIETY, RESTLESSNESS REPORTED

PY252122 Paris AFP in Spanish 0301 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP) -- It was learned here today that Bolivia is experiencing a climate of restlessness and anxiety because of labor, business and regional stoppages and protests as a consequence of the fluctuation of the Bolivian peso approved by the government last Monday. The printing shop workers and bank employees (partially) carried out a stoppage today, while a general strike of bank employees, private school teachers, airport workers, and workers of the Bolivian electricity company is scheduled for tomorrow because they have not been granted the salary increase they requested. Moreover, the city of Tarija (1,200 km south of La Paz) on the border with Argentina, is staging a general stoppage of activities in protest over the lack of a solution to their infrastructure and production problems.

Grocery stores have closed their doors due to the lack of official prices. People form long lines at the doors of the markets looking for necessities, while the association of retailers denounced the detention of their top leader Alfonso Guzman Ampuero. The importers of drugstore products and of medicines are laying off their personnel due to the lack of currency to import products.

The powerful Confederation of Transporters declared itself in a state of emergency. It is demanding an increase in public transportation fares to keep up with the devaluation of the Bolivian peso. The Confederation of Private Enterprises is divided. The exporters support the fluctuation while producers condemn it. This sector will hold an emergency general meeting to evaluate the consequences of this unprecedented measure in Bolivia.

The Labor Ministry has reiterated that all strikes have been declared illegal and that no salaries will be paid for those days of strike. In the free market the dollar has gone up in La Paz and Santa Cruz (the most important cities in Bolivia) to more than 100 pesos, while the official rate is 44 pesos. Walter Mur, president of the school of economy, told AFP that the dollar price was imposed by the IMF as if the country had an advanced economy capable of controlling the fluctuation of the U.S. currency domestically. He stated that the government has limited itself to implementing monetary measures without having an overall and consistent economic plan. Opposition party leaders also condemned the latest economic measures. Furthermore, some presidential advisers resigned from their posts. The people are expecting a total Cabinet reshuffle at any moment, while there are increasing rumors circulating on disagreements within the armed forces.

Moreover, it is said that the government still has some economic measures pending such as an increase in the interest rate and the elimination of state subsidies for necessary food products such as sugar, rice, bread and milk.

RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA WILL CONTINUE

PY260116 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] Sao Paulo -- Brazilian diplomats charged with matters related to Central America were not concealing yesterday at Itamaraty their concern over the aggravation of the Central American crisis and the direct repercussions the Guatemalan rightwing coup will have on the Salvadoran conflict. According to a preliminary analysis, the Guatemalan coup will have an immediate impact on the Salvadoran situation, and the Salvadoran rightist groups will now be stimulated to follow the example of their Guatemalan colleagues.

Within this framework the Salvadoran electoral process will be called into question and next Sunday's election will be endangered. The Guatemalan coup will be used as "an example" for the Salvadoran people to take into account when exercising their option to vote for the candidates of the ultraright sector or for representatives of the Christian Democratic government led by Napoleon Duarte. These are, however, their only two options since the Salvadoran revolutionary and leftwing groups chose not to participate in next Sunday's election.

Brazil will continue to maintain relations with Guatemala despite being aware that the new government has made the Brazilian position on the Central American crisis more difficult. Since the new Guatemalan Government will destabilize the shaky equilibrium of forces existing in the region, it is anticipated that there will be mounting pressure on countries -- like Brazil -- which still resist the U.S.-sponsored interventionist ideas. It is apparent that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry prefers to cope with these difficulties instead of relinquishing the long established principles observed by Itamaraty with regard to recognizing governments which seize power through a coup d'etat.

NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT DESCRIBED

PY252213 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 82 p 39

[Text] Brazil already has its first nuclear fuel manufacturing unit, the nuclear fuel factory, which is one of three units of the Nuclebras complex in Resende, nearly 150 kilometers from the city of Rio de Janeiro. The other two units of this complex are the unit to convert uranium concentrate to natural uranium and the uranium enrichment unit. The fueld element factory is, in fact, the last stage in the manufacturing of the nuclear fuel: here uranium oxide pellets are packed into zircalloy tubes which, in turn, are assembled inside what is known as a fuel assembly which is to go into the reactor. In other words, work in this factory consists basically of putting the nuclear fuel pellets into rods and then packing them into fuel assemblies.

Brazil decided to begin erecting the 3-unit nuclear fuel complex in Resende by building the last stage first because it needs to supply the Angra 1 plant with fuel elements. This nuclear fuel factory will begin operation in June and fill the first order for 40 fuel elements. The first fuel recharge for Angra 1 should have been supplied by the United States, under an agreement with the Westinghouse Company at the time the Angra 1 reactor was purchased, but the U.S. Government decided to suspend uranium sales to Brazil.

Nuclebras Superintendent Mauricio Valim do Val explained that, under the original timetable, Brazil would have begun by building the conversion unit first. With the United States stepping back, the construction timetable had to be reversed. The third-stage fuel element manufacturing unit will go in operation in June this year, the second-stage enrichment unit will begin to be constructed early in 1983, and the first-stage conversion unit late in 1983.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC PACKAGE

FL251513 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0208 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico, DF, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Patrimony and Industrial Development Jose Andres de Oteyza this afternoon announced that Mexican industry will receive fiscal incentives and tax exemptions in order to help it recover from the monetary crisis which the country is experiencing.

At the regular general assembly of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers (Concamin) held this afternoon and attended by more than 2,000 Mexican businessmen, it was reported that the government seeks to rechannel demand toward the domestic market, to endow the enterprises with capacity for payment and mainly to preserve the employment policy to the extent possible.

Among other things, the patrimony and industrial development secretary indicated that fiscal promotion certificates (Ceprofis) amounting to 15 percent of the average monthly payroll for 1982 will be granted. This incentive will be worth 15 million pesos and being non-cumulative its real value will be approximately 30 million pesos.

Jose Andres de Oteyza added that the firms which maintain their rate of employment will be entitled to this incentive. In addition, a sum equivalent to 80 percent of the payroll increase will be established for those firms which set up or maintain specific manpower training programs. He also said that firms facing debt problems will be provided with additional funds to cope with their commitments contracted in [U.S.] dollars.

Yet another measure announced was that a great many enterprises will be exempted from paying income tax during the present year and other enterprises will be allowed to defer one third of the tax which they have withheld from their workers on salaries paid during March 1982. Oteyza said that this incentive is worth approximately 4.5 billion pesos and is basically aimed at expediting the fulfillment of obligations arising from salary adjustment. The idea is to increase the liquidity of the firms and to reduce their financial costs.

He also told the industrialists that the federal government has agreed to give 35 billion worth of financial support to staples in order to prevent the entire burden of the economic adjustment from being shifted through price increases. Oteyza added that import custom tariffs on 1,500 basic products, raw materials and capital goods will be reduced by means of a system of import licenses.

He indicated that thanks to this package of federal measures the average extraordinary salary increase will in fact be around 24 percent. He stated that the economic package announced will mean for the state an additional burden of roughly 5 percent, which means that the businessmen will have to deal with only 19 percent, on the average.

Oteyza concluded by saying that understanding and cooperation are now needed from the various sectors of the community. "The government is offering not only its concrete support but also its capacity for dialogue, negotiation and reconciliation in order to enable us all to continue coming up with solutions," Oteyza emphasized.

Alfonso Pandal Graff, chairman of Concamin stated in his opening speech to the assembly that the demands of the workers have gone beyond the [compensation for] true loss of the purchasing power of the salaries. The leader of the industrialists indicated that the firms are endangered because they are unable to pay the salary adjustment agreed upon.

He added that clear-cut and effective measures are required to cope with decisions as inflexible as the one which has been arrived at, in order to share the burden with the state and prevent the close-down of the firms because of strikes or bankruptcies.

He also said that the industrialists are against price control and therefore, "prices must be urgently allowed to adjust to reality."

Pandal Graff added that the industrial sector is favorably disposed toward discussing and cooperating with the government in implementing the most effective measures against inflation.

He said: Therefore, we industrialists want a responsible participation in the new alliance for production which we have proposed to President Lopez Portillo.

He emphasized that "we the industrialists will do whatever we can in order to keep up the rate of employment and will try to see that the consumers' prices reflect only those increases justified by cost hikes."

He concluded by saying that there is a devaluation at the economic and monetary level but persons and human capabilities are not subject to the same deterioration. He indicated that only a spirit of understanding and dialogue will see us through.

LABOR CONGRESS LEADER WARNS EMPLOYERS ON WAGES

FL242315 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Fidel Velazquez, leader of the Labor Congress, warned today that if the entrepreneurial sector continues to refuse to pay the wage increase agreed on with the government, he will call a strike in all enterprises in the country next Monday. He described as "irresponsible and antipatriotic" the entrepreneurs' contempt for the resolution promulgated by the Labor Secretariat and said that the entrepreneurial sector was playing with fire, and if it continued with the same attitude, the workers movement might become angry. He added that if a general closure of companies, industries and stores occurs, the workers could take charge of them.

Fidel Velazquez stressed that the wage readjustment was accepted by the two sectors and that the measure promulgated by Labor Secretary Sergio Garcia Ramirez "is irrevocable and not objectionable."

After stressing that the employers have no reason to reject the government measures, Velazquez, who is also leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), said that "if the workers' patience ends, the representatives of private enterprise will not live to tell it, since what are they going to do before a discontented crowd?" Finally, he explained that the objectives of employers' pressures on the government are to obtain more concessions, an attitude which he said is "blackmail."

Fidel Velazquez resumed his duties today in the congress following a few days of inactivity due to a leg injury.

EL SALVADOR

GUERRILLA FORCES ATTACK ELECTIONS COUNCIL

PA251433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1412 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Guerrilla groups tried to seize the installations of the Central Elections Council [CCE], located in northwestern San Salvador, early today. Intense shooting was heard during the guerrilla action, which was frustrated by the counterinsurgency battalion trained in the United States, but there have been no official reports yet on casualties.

The Salvadoran Army has launched intense patrolling in the streets of San Salvador, especially near the CCE, to prevent new guerrilla actions. The Salvadorans will go to the polls on Sunday to elect the members of a constituent assembly.

Meanwhile, Radio Venceremos, the official FMLN voice, said today that the guerrillas have taken over a large part of Morazan Department, where heavy fighting is underway. It added that the worst confrontations occurred in El Tigre hill and that the insurgents blew up a bridge in Torola.

Council Reports 'No Damage'

PA252207 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Station interview with (Rolin Azmitia), public relations chief of the Central Elections Council -- live by telephone]

[Text] [Question] The people have been asking about the attack on the Elections Council. It is said that there was an attempt to occupy it and destroy the ballots.

[Answer] This seems to have been the intention. What the attackers failed to realize is that, precisely because something of this kind was foreseen, those papers were never here and an effort was made to quickly dispatch what few papers had been here. By the day before yesterday, the papers had already been distributed. The attack was, therefore, too late and was, moreover, unfair to the persons who remained working here.

[Question] There were no (?casualties)?

[Answer] No and there was no property damage.

[Question] Were reinforcements requested from the security forces?

[Answer] The porter called for reinforcements and they helped greatly.

[Question] Were there many attackers?

[Answer] Those who oppose the process have said that there were 300 to 500.

[Question] How did they get in?

[Answer] Near the edge of the site where the council is located there are a number of gullies which served to provide a cover for them to take up positions. However, as I said, fortunately, no harm was done.

[Question] The attack reportedly (?took place) at approximately 0600. [words indistinct] We are happy that everything is now normal and that there were no causalties, in view of the circumstances.

[Answer] Well, I believe that the relatives of all our workers thank you, because the relatives have been in suspense too.

[Question] People are asking whether everything is normal, whether the council is operating normally.

[Answer] Yes, it is operating like any normal day. Above all, it was admirable that our workers were not intimidated. There could have been resignations and so forth. However, the people have realized that this is a very special situation and logically, they are not going to risk everything, but they are doing their part here at the central council.

[Question] Right. We at the press department of Cadena Sonora thank you. If you have any other information, we are at your service.

[Answer] Thank you, and I am equally at your service.

D'AUBUISSON ENDS ARENA CAMPAIGN WITH RALLY

PA251847 Paris AFP in Spanish 0402 GMT 24 Mar 82

[By special AFP correspondent Yves Gacon]

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the Salvadoran extreme right, today ended the electoral campaign of his party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), one of the parties favored to win Sunday's elections in addition to President Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

D'Aubuisson is a former National Guard major discharged for promoting a coup d'etat in 1981. He appeared at the San Salvador municipal gymnasium wearing a bulletproof vest under a sweater, with a gun strapped to his waist and surrounded by dozens of bodyguards with submachineguns.

The ARENA leader delivered a speech before a group of 6,000 people, in which he attacked the PDC and accused "international communism" of being responsible for the civil war in El Salvador.

Mexican mariachis and young ladies wearing the colors of the extreme right party -- blue, white, and red -- participated in the very colorful political rally. The ARENA supporters reiterated their desire to end the political supremacy of the PDC, which has held power with the armed forces since December 1980.

D'Aubuisson resumed his attacks against "the triangle of death" formed by the PDC, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR, which groups the opposition parties and is headed by Guillermo Ungo) and the FMLN.

True Salvadorans want peace, work, and proper conditions for the country's development, while the PDC and the guerrillas only want violence, D'Aubuisson said.

Regarding today's coup d'etat in Guatemala, he said it came as a result of "fraud" in the recent presidential elections in that country. He said: Nobody will prevent ARENA from winning elections in El Salvador, because we will make sure this doesn't happen.

D'Aubuisson described the members of the PDC as "watermelons," since they are "green (Duarte's political color) on the outside and red on the inside," referring to "commitments" which the PDC has to the opposition.

The ARENA candidate, as on previous occasions, roused the crowds with slogans such as "we are great; we are strong; we are honest; we have the truth; we believe in nationalism." The candidate then strongly attacked the Venezuelan PDC, Mexico (which he labeled a "traitor) and France for its recognition of the opposition. "We don't have to worry about what France thinks. We must direct the country's future, struggle for peace, save El Salvador from communism, and untimately save America."

Before leaving the gymnasium to participate in a march through the city which ended at the savior's monument which is located in the center of the city, ARENA supporters sang the party's anthem, which criticizes "criminal communists with animal instincts" and promises that "El Salvador will be the reds graveyard." ARENA will have candidates in the country's 14 departments in Sunday's elections for control of the 60-member constituent assembly.

SFRY DENIES CARPIO MARCIAL VISIT INVOLVED ARMS

For a Belgrade TANJUG report on an official Yugoslav denial that arms sales were discussed during the visit to Yugoslavia by Cayetano Carpio Marcial, commander in chief of the Salvadoran People's Liberation Forces, see the Yugoslavia section of 26 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

RADIO VENCEREMOS COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Peace Initiatives Praised

PA220440 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Mar 82

[War bulletin No 8 of the FMLN General Command; issued by the FMLN Press Secretariat; dated 18 March 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Press Secretariat of the FMLN hereby broadcasts an important communique of the FMLN General Command:

The FMLN supports the peace initiatives. United to stop intervention.

Declaration of the FMLN General Command: The struggle of the Salvadoran people has experienced an impressive increase. The efforts to obstruct the current FMLN military offensive by the fascist junta have failed and will continue to fail . The dictatorship has thus failed to open the way to any claim of credibility for the electoral farce. It is clear at this time, to everybody, including Mister Haig, that the so-called elections of 28 March will not settle in any way the conflict underway in our country, having in fact deepened the conflicts between the various groups of the reactionary forces disputing the hegemony, even making use of criminal plots against their own leaders.

The preparations for a military coup against either side have been clearly evident in recent days, and the Reagan government, without discarding its virtual support to either of those groups, views with growing concern the fact that neither the elections nor a coup can save the dictatorship. Thus, making hypocritical insinuations of a possible negotiation, it speedily prepares a foreign attack plan against our people.

The FMLN denounces before the world that the Reagan administration has already reached an agreement with the Argentine Government and other South American regimes on the massive participation of their troops in an invasion of El Salvador in the near future. One of the negotiations underway, being promoted with statements from presidents, such as that of 18 March by Colombian President Turbay Ayala and through editorials by the rightist Latin American press, such as LA NACION, of Costa Rica, consists of the request by one or several governments for an OAS consultation meeting to approve the creation of an inter-American force to invade El Salvador. Already, Argentine troops are secretly arriving in Honduras and some members are participating as advisers of the military forces of the Christian Democratic military junta.

In the case of OAS approval, troops from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Honduras and other countries would officially participate, aided by the logistical support of the United States, whose government would, through this shameful maneuver, hide its face and responsibility as an aggressor.

We are sure, however, that there are in the OAS governments and officials who are respectful of their own dignity, who would refuse to support this new blow of Washington and the fascist dictatorship on the backs of the Central American peoples and their legitimate right to independence, self-determination, freedom, justice, peace and social progress. The advance of the Salvadoran people's struggle is being conducted on the basis of their own efforts, supported by their heroism and at the cost of their own blood. It is a struggle that has deep roots in the nation's history.

The insistence of the Yankee government on presenting the Salvadoran struggle as a result of the intervention of other powers is a coarse argument used to justify the aggression it is preparing, but it is unrealistic and laughable to think that any foreign intervention could defeat the revolutionary movement of the Salvadoran people.

We will resist firmly and, with the high level of military skills we have acquired during this long struggle, we will defeat such an action. The result of aggression will not be our defeat but the regionalization of the struggle and the uncovering of Washington's plans to attack Nicaragua and Cuba, which are the true and most important objectives of the reactionary policy of the Reagan administration toward Central America and the Caribbean.

Therefore, any aggression against the revolutionary movement will not bring peace but a very serious assault on world peace. The FMLN has repeatedly denounced this danger. The FMLN has been doing it in a mature and responsible manner. The FMLN has tried to face it in order to stop it. It has insisted on its decision to have negotiations without prior conditions to find a political solution to the war in our country. For the same reason, the FMLN has stated its support for the efforts that governments such as that of Mexico, Nicaragua and others have made in favor of peace. Recently we have stated support for the proposal of President Jose Lopez Portillo.

The answer of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to President Lopez Portillo was a five-point position on El Salvador demanding commitments from other states. This represents evidence of Haig's interest in closing the doors to negotiations that could lead to a just political solution. This is a deliberate effort to justify the aggression that Washington and its puppets want to implement against the people of El Salvador and all the people of the region. None of our countries, however, will accept this blackmail.

The FMLN urgently calls on all the people, governments, institutions, parties, organizations and persons who love peace and the right to self-determination to quickly make a big general effort to stop the aggressive hand of imperialism and its lackeys, to erect a solid and high wall against intervention and to unmask and to condemn imperialist preparations, to point out the imperialist plotters and their lackeys who are a threat to world peace.

The FMLN calls on Salvadoran people to further strengthen their combative spirit and their disposition to fight to take the historic struggle in which we are engaged to a victorious end without hesitation in the face of blackmail and threats from our enemies by increasing the invincible thrust of this great struggle and by resisting and foiling any foreign intervention. The days of the bloody fascist dictatorship are almost over. The Salvadoran people are defeating it. The Salvadoran people will inevitably defeat it with world solidarity and support.

FDR Views on Election

PA231710 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Interview with Saul Villalta, member of the Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR]; somewhere on Guazapa hill -- live relay]

[Text] [Question] Companero Villalta, what is the position of the FDR in the face of these fraudulent elections that are just a few days away?

[Answer] Regarding the imperialist scheme to have this electoral farce, we want to note that the FDR-FMLN has presented a proposal for a political solution to the crisis that is negotiable. We have made this proposal at all international forums and to all democratic governments and peoples in the world. Therefore, our proposal to have peace and justice in our country is advancing and is receiving the support of all nations in the world. I want to note that the FDR-FMLN submitted its proposal for a political and final solution to the Salvadoran conflict, but because of the intransigence of U.S. imperialism and the dominant classes in our country, we have not been able to have peace and tranquillity in our country based on a just agreement that included a total change in the structures that have kept our people oppressed for more than 50 years. Therefore, we want to tell our people that the FDR-FMLN proposal is finding more support in the international community while the imperialist proposal, the electoral farce, is becoming weaker.

We are approaching the decisive days in which the Salvadoran people should be on the alert for the call of their vanguard. I want to note that recent times have shown the people how the electoral farce is being revealed and how the people have been understanding and consolidating themselves in support for the popular forces that are involved in the struggle against the Christian Democratic dictatorship. We thus reiterate our call to the Salvadoran people so they remain alert for the vanguard's call.

[Question] What is the FDR's stance in the face of an escalation in the Reagan administration's efforts to carry out a military intervention in our country?

[Answer] We are proceeding to advance with the popular movement but we must also be on the alert in order to forestall the possibility of a military occupation in our country. The bourgeois army is defeated at this time. We have seen in the last offensive in Guazapa how we practically dismantled. [words indistinct]; therefore, the enemy is completely on the defensive now. We therefore believe that desperation is increasing among the enemy's ranks, so it is likely that they are contemplating the possibility of a military occupation with foreign forces.

We are putting the Salvadoran people on the alert so they can become a single soldier to defend the country's sovereignty in order for our people to move forward in this war of liberation that we are winning and that we believe is becoming stronger while the military dictatorship is weakening.

Consequently, we are warning the Salvadoran people by telling them that while the unrestrained advance of the people's movement increases, so do the expectations for a military occupation.

We also appeal to the democratic countries and governments of the world to remain attentive to the incidents that will occur in our country and to take steps to prevent a military occupation. We do not call it an intervention because there has been intervention in our country for some time already. We are victims of military, economic and diplomatic intervention. [words indistinct] desperation expect the military occupation.

We want to issue a call to the working class -- the market vendors, the peasants, the students, the teachers, the professionals -- to watch for instructions that Radio Venceremos will give at the opportune time so that they join, massively and decidedly, the activities that will be carried out in the next few days.

Regarding this, the FDR and the Coordinating Board of the masses have made a special call to all Salvadorans and all sectors to be ready to participate in the battle at the right time and at the places that will be indicated by the historical vanguard. We also want to issue a call to the democratic governments in the world so that they heed to the call of certain newsmen's associations that have requested a break in diplomatic relations with the Christian Democratic junta. We are not only calling for this break in diplomatic relations but for a break in economic relations with this criminal junta that [words indistinct] murder and commit crime against the people.

We also appeal to the democratic governments to promote a break of diplomatic and trade relations with the junta in order to further isolate this decadent Christian Democratic junta.

Melendez Downgrades Elections

PA240058 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Final part of interview with Jorge Melendez, alias Jonas, commander of the FMLN Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Commander Jorge Melendez, what is the FMLN's message to the people in view of the electoral farce and the repression that the dictatorship is planning to carry out in order to make the masses vote?

[Answer] Well, the main thing is that the people should not worry too much about whether or not they are going to vote. In truth, the elections are not the main problem. The government junta isn't even sure if elections are going to be held. We, the people, should not (?waste our time wondering) whether or not there will be elections. The Salvadoran people should now be busy preparing their own plans because it is not a question of following the dictatorship's plans, regardless of whether or not it is planning a farce. The truth is that the enemy is full of contradictions. They are now sure that their elections are a failure. They are discussing whether to suspend or postpone them. Others think that they will obtain more military power through the elections. In sum, the problem of the elections is not a problem for the people.

The most important thing for the people right now is to follow or to be alert to the instructions that the FMLN will give, not on the elections, but rather on the great tasks that must be carried out during the decisive confrontations and the tasks that must be immediately undertaken to prepare for this huge popular effort that must be carried out at the moment that the FMLN so decides and announces through Radio Venceremos and through various (?organized) means.

Therefore, all the junta's propaganda through the news media about preparing invisible ink so the people will vote and will not be afraid of the guerrillas' (?repression) is just another misinformation campaign. In truth, because of the terror being carried out by the junta, the people are afraid that if they do not vote and their identification cards are not marked, any national guardsman or soldier could kill them. Therefore, the FMLN does not have any instructions. That is not a problem. The elections don't have any significance for the Salvadoran people. There should be no concern about whether or not one votes because the elections have no importance. What is important is preparing for the definitive battles.

[Question] Commander Jorge Melendez, in the country's current situation, what is the FMLN message to officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the national army?

[Answer] We must state that there are many soldiers, noncommissioned officers and even officers who do not really know what they are fighting for. The war they are waging does not have any clear meaning. They must all think about the following: If the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, have called for negotiations -- that is, they have called for an understanding -- why should a soldier, noncommissioned officer or an officer want to continue the war? The war is continuing because the fascist military leaders know that they are responsible for the crimes. They know that in a purge for a new type of army that will guarantee a (?broad) and democratic government, they have no opportunity because they are the enemies of the people. They are the ones who are leading the national army and the Salvadoran people to senselessly shed their blood.

All officers should think about what is true respect for the fatherland and for the flag, what is the true meaning of our symbols that represent the interests of all the people rather than just the interests of a high military command that issues a number of military orders that do not respond to the needs of work, peace and justice that our people are demanding. They must think like men. They must think like patriots and they must make a decision. They must make the decision to transfer to the side of the just interests of the people. We do not ignore the fact that there are many honest individuals in the army who have already thought about this. We know that there is repression in the army. We have learned about the arrests that occurred in the Air Force after our forces sabotaged and destroyed many aircraft. We have learned of the arrest of the numerous members of the Army in the San Carlos garrison who called for a negotiated solution. We also know that there was repression against members of the Army in the San Miguel 3d Brigade. Many soldiers have already deserted and [words indistinct]. There are noncommissioned officers who are thinking that in the coming battles [words indistinct] for a cause that cannot be justified.

It is necessary for us to reiterate that the objective of our struggle for liberation and a democratic government is not a struggle for the destruction of the national army or any social sector of the country. On the contrary, it is the struggle for the unification of all the sectors that are truly interested in achieving peace and the stability that our country needs to develop its economy and to obtain its social and political stability. Therefore, we once again reiterate to the noncommissioned officers and officers that there is a place for them in this struggle. We reiterate to the soldiers that they must not fight against their people. They must not fire on the peasants, students and workers who belong to the classes from which they have been taken by force. They are now being forced to fight and senselessly give up their lives.

On behalf of our General Command and all our combatants and chiefs of the FMLN, I reiterate our decision to accept in our ranks all members of the national army who want to join and fight on the side of our people.

Ambush in Morazan

PA240208 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Mar 82

[War bulletin from the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front in the Morazan Department -- live or recorded relay]

[Text] FMLN troops ambushed at noon, an enemy patrol that was traveling from (Joloaiquin) to Delicias de Concepcion. The ambush took place near (La Comujera). The clash that ensued lasted 3 hours. The enemy sustained several dead and wounded. Our forces, led by Companero Commander (Israel), withdrew without problems. Revolution or death, we will win.

Buses Destroyed in Capital

PA240232 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Mar 82

[War report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in San Salvador]

[Text] On 23 [as heard] at 1100 FMLN guerrilla commandos sabotaged 15 Urban transportation units. The buses were destroyed at the following places:

1. Five Route 11 buses at (Santa Fe de San Marcos) neighborhood.
2. Two Route 29 buses on Escalon Avenue.
3. One Route 27 bus at Cucumacayan neighborhood.
4. One Route 147 bus on 3 de Mayo Avenue, Cucumacayan neighborhood.
5. One bus from the route that goes to the El Salvador airport.
6. One Route 20 bus on 35th Street East, La Rabida Neighborhood.
7. One Route 101 bus on 14th Avenue North, La Rabida.

8. One Route 23 bus on 23d Street, in front of the (Don Roa) church.
9. One Route 31 bus at (San Jacinto).
10. One Route 302 bus of the (San Jacinto) Departmental service.

United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win. [Signed] Commander Alejandro Montenegro.

More Action in Morazan

PA250440 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Our people advance, the enemy withdraws; 24 March has been a day of victories for our people. In various parts of the country our revolutionary army today defeated the enemy, seized the weapons supplied by imperialism, inflicted many casualties and captured several war prisoners. Here is a summary of the activities carried out by the FMLN in Morazan Department today, 24 March:

At 0515, FMLN forces attacked enemy positions on the strategic El Tigre hill near the destroyed bridge over the Torola River. They dislodged the enemy and recovered the following weapons: 16 G-3 rifles with all their equipment, 21 G-3 clips, 2 .30 machineguns, 1 M60 machinegun, 1 90 mm cannon with a shell for that cannon and 1 M79 grenade launcher.

In the actions on El Tigre hill, our revolutionary army killed 14 of the dictatorship's forces. These included Lt (Rivas Castro) and radio operator (Retana Magana). Our forces captured seven war prisoners. Here are their names: (Arturo Alfonso Herrera Martinez) of Santa Ana, (Alvaro Retana) of Santa Ana, (Jorge Flores) of Santa Ana who is wounded, (Jose Fernando Salgado) of Santa Ana who is wounded, (Jose Napoleon Romero Marquez) of San Miguel, (Miguel Salgado Mendez) of San Miguel and (Luis Alonso Maravilla Campos) of San Miguel. They all belong to the 4th Company of the 3d Brigade of San Miguel. The wounded are being treated by our doctors. The FMLN has respected the physical integrity and human dignity of these seven war prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Agreements.

We also report that at 0330 today, our forces began their advance against enemy positions in the town of Yoloaiquin. This town is in the absolute control of the FMLN. The reports from Yoloaiquin indicate that our forces maintain total control of this town in Morazan Department. The enemy sustained two dead in Yoloaiquin and the rest of the enemy fled in disorder to Delicias de Concepcion. There were several wounded among those who fled. In Yoloaiquin, our forces recovered four G-3 rifles, three M1 carbines and other military equipment. We report to our people that in Yoloaiquin, our forces captured another soldier. His name is (Santos Salamanca), 18 years old, from El Nino canton in San Miguel. He was slightly wounded. We also report that while the soldiers were withdrawing in disorder, they wounded two civilians. They were treated by our companeros. The enemy has sent reinforcements to Yoloaiquin and since 1000 it has been machinegunning our positions but without causing us harm.

Here is more information on our armed people's victorious actions today, second anniversary of the brutal assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero. Two ambushes were successfully staged. One was staged on the road from the place known as (Flamenco) to the town of Sociedad, on the military route. The other ambush was carried out on the road from Santa Rosa de Lima to San Miguel. Around 50 national guardsmen showed up and several casualties were inflicted on them. So far, the exact number is unknown. One of our heroic companeros died in this ambush. The battles were continuing at noon and early in the afternoon.

Here is more information on the battles today in the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front. There were heavy battles today near the city of San Miguel, specifically in San Pedro, (Rio Seco) and (Concepcion Corozales).

These actions in the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front were led by Commander Jorge Melendez, Jonas, politically and militarily in charge of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, and by Commander (Silvio Argeta), chief of operations.

From these mountains of Morazan, from this point of transmission of Radio Venceremos we send a revolutionary and militant greetings to the combatants of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front who today wrote a heroic page in our unstoppable path to liberation, to the companeros who seized weapons supplied by Reagan to the military-Christian Democratic junta, weapons that from now on will be aimed against the enemies of the people. We will win!

Morazan Victories Claimed

PA250213 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] At 0300 this morning, FMLN forces advanced toward the enemy's positions in Yoloaiquin, Morazan Department. Our forces also launched an attack early this morning against the enemy's positions in El Coyol hill and El Tigre hill, two strategic access positions to the northern zone of Morazan Department.

At 0515 this morning, our forces attacked the enemy positions in El Tigre hill. In this operation, our forces overran the troops under the command of (Garcia) and (Florez Lima). In El Tigre hill, our people obtained a resounding vitory. In this operation our forces seized from the dictatorship a total of 12 G-3 rifles, one M60 machinegun, a 90 mm cannon bullet, ammunition and a large quantity of supplies.

According to reports received at 1209 from El Tigre hill, our revolutionary troops killed 12 men of the dictatorship and wounded many more. Among the casualities of the dictatorship there is a lieutenant, who was identified as Lieutenant (Rivas Castro), and a communications equipment operator named (Magana). Our revolutionary army took seven prisoners in this operation in El Tigre hill.

At 0745 this morning, forces of the dictatorship, which had left the town of Santa Rosa de Lima on their way to San Francisco Gotera, were intercepted by our army and engaged in a battle which lasted approximately 1 hour, forcing the enemy to withdraw.

At 1212, we were informed that our forces have control of the military routes. This means that San Francisco Gotera, capital of Morazan Department, has been totally isolated by the revolutionary forces which have control of the road that leaves from San Francisco Gotera to the north from the rest of the department. Meanwhile, to the south, our forces south of San Francisco Gotera, have absolute control of the roads from Santa Rosa de Lima and from San Miguel to San Francisco Gotera.

Transportation Disruptions

PA251543 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Reports from San Salvador indicate that most of the country's transporters, obeying the FMLN's instructions to avoid moving on the road leading to various cities, have nearly paralyzed transportation throughout El Salvador.

A spokesman for the transporters organized in the AEAS [Salvadoran Bus Owners Association] has reported that the transportation services to the departments of San Vicente, Usulutan, San Miguel, La Union and Morazan, as well as in the northern departments of Cuscatlan, Cabanas and Chalatenango, have been completely suspended.

GUATEMALA

MILITARY JUNTA NULLIFIES 7 MARCH ELECTIONS

PA252109 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2048 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The military junta which has been in power in Guatemala since Tuesday issued its first decree-law today whereby its declares the nullification of the general elections held last 7 March. Furthermore, it revokes the decree of the Congress of the republic which proclaimed the official candidate and former defense minister, Gen Anibal Guevara, as president-elect of Guatemala.

According to the military junta headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt, the elections held on 7 March "were plagued with anomalies, fraud and general manipulations which clearly thwarted the will of the Guatemalan people."

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS NEW CABINET MINISTERS

PA260307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0126 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan military junta today appointed new cabinet ministers, most of whom are technicians and civilian professionals not connected with political parties. However, three members of the military junta reserved for themselves the Ministries of Defense, Government, and Communications.

Gen Efrain Rios Montt, president of the military junta, will also hold the post of defense ministers. Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad and Col Francisco Gordillo Matinez, who are also spokesmen for the junta, will hold the posts of government and communications ministers, respectively.

Alfonso Alonso Lima, former deputy defense minister and a career diplomat, will be in charge of the Foreign Ministry.

Julio P. Matheu, who has a broad background in the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a degree in economics and is one of the most influential businessmen in Guatemala, will be in charge of the Economy Ministry.

Otto Martinez Recinos, who has been president of the agricultural chambers in the country in the past, will be in charge of the Agriculture, Livestock and Foodstuffs Ministry.

The Economy and Agriculture Ministries were given to Matheu and Martinez at the request of the Financial and Industrial Agrarian Trade Committee (CACIF), which General Rios Montt had asked for assistance following the 23 March military coup. The CACIF groups all the industrial, trade, agriculture, and finance businessmen of Guatemala.

The education minister is Luis Antonio Merida, a primary education teacher who was director of intermediate education under the Romeo Lucas administration.

Economist Leonardo Figueroa Villate is the new finance minister. He has no political leanings or connections with public administration, which was termed "corrupt" by the officers who seized power in Guatemala.

Until late tonight, Thursday, the military junta had not announced the names of the labor and public health ministers, but General Rios Montt expressed his intention that the cabinet be completed by tomorrow, Friday. It was officially learned that the designated ministers will occupy their posts immediately and will choose their aides, making sure that they have no political connections and that they are honorable.

The officers who seized power in Guatemala last Tuesday are tired, according to their manifestos, of the corruption of General Lucas' administration. The first decree issued today by the military junta nullified the 7 March elections for being fraudulent and revoked the congressional resolution which proclaimed Gen Anibal Guevara president-elect of the republic.

Brigade Commander Appointed

PA250049 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2350 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] This morning Gen (Jorge Mario Reyes Diaz) was appointed commander of the Gen (Manuel Lisandro Barillas) military brigade in Quezaltenango, replacing Gen (Rene Quintero).

POLITICAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO REMAIN CLOSED

PA250202 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0023 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] No political party can operate in view of the country's situation. All activity of this nature could be described as illegal. In this regard, it was reported that all the headquarters of the political parties that operate in the country will remain closed.

STATION REPORTS BIOGRAPHY OF RIOS MONTT

PA251555 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0023 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Here is a biographical sketch of the president of the military government junta disseminated abroad by the news agencies.

Brig Gen Efrain Rios Montt, 57 years old, appointed by the army as president of the junta that rules the country following the overthrow of Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, is a career military officer with deep religious beliefs.

His brother Mario is bishop of the Escuintla Archdiocese. He has another brother and two sisters. The new Guatemalan ruler is a charismatic Catholic, considered a scholar of religious ethics. He is married and has three children.

After ending studies in his native town of Huehuetenango, he went to the Polytechnical School, where he graduated as a second lieutenant with a degree in science and literature. He was principal of the Polytechnical School, chief of the army general staff and represented Guatemala at the Inter-American Defense Council. He was military attache at the embassy in Washington and from there he went on to head the Inter-American Military Academy. He resigned from this position in September 1973 to enter politics as presidential candidate of an opposition front made up of the Christian Democratic Party and other groups in the elections in which Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia was elected.

Rios Montt described these elections as fraudulent and present elections data which gave him an absolute majority. The charges presented by Rios Montt and his followers culminated in street disturbances which were repressed, and the opposition failed in its attempt at organizing a peaceful resistance to paralyze the country. He was dismissed from the army on the day of the disorders and was banned from making further political statements. A few days later, he was sent to Spain as a military attache in what was described as a dignified exile. He returned to the country at the end of the Laugerud Garcia administration and remained an active duty general in the Army because he was still not old enough to retire.

During the Lucas Garcia administration, he appeared in several public events, particularly of a military nature, but he was not linked with any political activity.

HONDURAS

AMBASSADOR TO UN REBUTS HAIG ON U.S. BASES

PA252324 Paris AFP in English 2259 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Caracas, March 25 (AFP) -- The newly named Honduran ambassador to the United Nations, Enrique Ortez Galindez, [name as received] denied here today that Honduras was willing to make territory available for the installation of U.S. military bases. When reminded that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig had made a statement about such Honduran willingness, the ambassador said: "If my words indicate a denial, I would accept that."

He was heading a high-level Honduran delegation that gave Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins the peace proposals for Central America that Honduras had submitted to the Organization of American States [OAS].

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA GIVES SPEECH AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA252055 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1640 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, to the UN Security Council in New York -- live]

[Text] Mrs President and distinguished members of the UN Security Council:

Please receive my most frank greeting and that of the people and Government of Nicaragua.

Throughout history, mankind has been involved in a constant struggle to obtain better and more just ways of life. As part of this historical process, the Central American region has been violently disturbed in recent times by the constant actions of its peoples [word indistinct] oppressed and determined to become free in the face of the resistence of privileged minorities bent on stopping the changes that sooner or later must affect these unjust societies.

At the expense of sacrifices and effort, the Nicaraguan people were able to break the chains of a brutal and inhumane system on 19 July 1979 and at the expense of sacrifices and effort, the Salvadoran people are giving continuity and increased value to a struggle that was started many decades ago, repressed and smothered several times, but which needless to say is just.

This can be explained up to a certain point. Corrupt and bloody regimes like that of Maximiliano Hernandez in El Salvador killed more than 30,000 Salvadorans on 22 January 1932, and the Somozist dictatorship massacred more than 100,000 Nicaraguans in 40 years of terror to keep itself in power. However, something that is hardly explainable by logic is that behind Hernandez and the Somozas, giving unconditional support, were various governments of the United States of America.

The Nicaraguans have harsh and bitter experience concerning the policy of different U.S. administrations which have given constant support to unpopular governments. They harassed and defeated honest governments. They carried out armed intervention against our people. To recount these unjust actions would make us see that they have been repeated throughout our history. In the last few weeks of our people's struggle when Somoza was bombing, strafing and burning our cities, the United States again tried to obtain approval for its intervention in Nicaragua at the 17th OAS consultative meeting.

Now, under other circumstances, history is repeating itself and the present U.S. administration is making every conceivable effort to intervene in Central America.

When our revolution succeeded, despite the historical inconsistencies of U.S. policy, we felt -- and we set out to do this -- that it was necessary to normalize relations with the United States within a new framework of respect and cooperation. For this reason, I met with President Carter in Washington in September 1980. We must admit that it was then possible to start an effective dialogue. This mutual disposition to readjust and improve relations between Nicaragua and the United States was abruptly affected when, in January 1981, a new government assumed the U.S. Presidency [as heard].

At that time, the new U.S. administration had to face the reality of a triumphant revolution in Nicaragua and the desire of oppressed peoples who were also struggling in El Salvador and Guatemala for urgent, needed and profound changes in all areas. This was a serious responsibility for the new administratin, which had been proclaiming among other things in its platform during the electoral campaign, lines of action intended to destroy the Nicaraguan revolutionary process and to stop at whatever expense the process of change in the Central American region. This was a policy that even affected the U.S. allies, because it was based more on (?mystic) prophecy than reason. Such (?lines) handled during the electoral campaign did not seem important, and they would have been left just as simple elements of electoral propaganda if the policy of the new government would have been expressed in realistic terms, and especially with the responsibility that its power demanded.

Reality, however, was harsh and even dramatic, when the (?line) set forth during the electoral campaign quickly began turning into actual policy. Economic aggression, verbal threats and destabilization plots through the stimulus of armed counterrevolutionary activity from the United States itself are among the most relevant developments promoted by the present U.S. Government during the 1 year and 2 months of its administration, against a country of simple men and women dedicated to reconstructing their fatherland who do not represent any threat to the U.S. people's national interests.

Alongside this, the reactivation of military aid in the form of weapons, training and advice for the Salvadoran Army and security forces was the administration's only response to the crisis in El Savlador. In this manner, the U.S. Government once again committed itself to a lost and unjust cause. It also subverted the values and moral force on which the United States of America is based. The protest against this mistaken and dangerous policy was not long in coming. Responsible governments and peoples rejected the precepts raised to justify U.S. support for the immoral cause of the assassins of humble peasants, workers, students, professionals, intellectuals, children, women, old people, newsmen, priests and nuns. It was always been clear that the much-touted East-West confrontation is not the cause of the revolutionary change in Nicaragua or of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan peoples' struggle.

As I indicated during my presentation at the 36th regular session of the UN General Assembly, nobody could doubt that the real causes of the struggle in Central America existed even before the Bolsheviks seized power in the Russia of the Czars. Neither can one doubt that even before that, in 1902, the United States was already impelementing an erroneous policy, which was expressed in Nicaragua through the armed intervention of its Marines, who crashed against our people's heroic resistance.

The cause of the area's crisis is so clear, and the U.S. responses so weak and erroneous, that the governments of Mexico, Venezuela and Canada proposed a general and nondiscriminatory program to give a joint economic response that would help cushion the social and political responses resulting from the economic injustices. This initiative has not been properly received by the United States. In practice, it has promoted a unilateral, limited and exclusionary policy which has left out Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua. This has weakened the efforts sponsored by those governments, leaving unanswered the Central American countries' urgent demand for a minimum of $20 billion in financing and credits to survive during the next 5 years.

We can say at this point that the policy of the present U.S. administration continues to be at odds with the reality of the region. Despite certain assertions, the threats against the region included in the government platform were not merely electoral rhetoric. On the contrary, they are increasingly becoming a cruel reality. At this point, the consummation of covert aggression against our revolution points to the crisis, to the point that the imminence of intervention in Central America has obliged us to request the convocation of the UN Security Council.

I must stress that since my appearance at the 36th regular session of the UN General Assembly, where we conveyed the Salvadoran revolutionaries' specific peace proposals, the crisis in Central America has become more serious. The many efforts to achieve peace and political stability in the region have been frustrated.

It is due to the dynamics of these events that I am forced to appear before you to warn the nations of the world that the Central American crisis has already reached the point of a dramatic explosion. I am forced to appear before you due to the increasing concern of the international public opinion about the uncertain course of events in Central America.

I have come to this forum because Nicaragua does not have military pacts with anyone, because we cannot conceive that the insensitivity of the U.S. administration regarding the need for changes in the region will lead to a world crisis, and because we do not want the just struggle of our people to be unilaterally included in the geopolitical estimates of the large world strategies.

I must appeal to this United Nations body because we cannot accept only being given the alternative of dying in defense of our fatherland since we will never accept that we be conquered by force.

I am forced to appear before you because I share the legitimate concerns of the responsible men in the U.S. Congress and Senate who are making great efforts so that intervention will not occur, because I share the legitimate concern of the most important and serious U.S. news media and the U.S. people, the concern of simple citizens, religious leaders, leaders of civic organizations, intellectuals and trade unions. They all reject a new Vietnam in their history. Their concern coincides with the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace and both are peoples who see emerging from deep in their historical memory the images of intervention and the horrors of war.

We have requested this meeting for serious and extremely urgent reasons. We do not want to use this forum to proffer insults against the U.S. Government. We want to make all the efforts that we are morally bound to make in order to prevent a confrontation of incalculable effect in Central America, which might endanger world peace.

I want to tell you with great sincerity and simplicity, based on the moral support of all our people, that if our vehement efforts for peace fail, neither imperial will, threats, blockades, or invasions will stop the historic struggle that we are willing to wage to safeguard our legitimate right to self-determination. We will fight to the last man and until the last drop of our blood has been shed. But we do not want a confrontation. We want peace and tranquillity. That is why we are here before you.

We are not here to enumerate or to give a chronological listing of all the aggressive and destabilizing actions that the United States has been conducting ever since the present administration assumed power. We will limit ourselves to briefly referring to the main events which have occurred in the last few months and which have formed a pattern from which we can affirm that intervention in Central America is already underway.

Therefore, we want you to be aware of the existence of training camps for Somozist counterrevolutionaries in the State of Florida, in U.S. territory, and the flimsy legal reasons that U.S. authorities have brandished when we have demanded the dismantling of those camps which violate the neutrality contained in U.S. law.

We want you to know that there are training camps for Somozist counterrevolutionaries in the Republic of Honduras, along the Nicaraguan border. There are about 2,000 revolutionaries there. They are trained, fed, and armed by officers of the CIA's section of operations for the division of hemispheric affairs. In this sense, despite public statements made by the Honduran Government about its neutral position, the CIA's actions to jeopardize that neutrality have increased. We want you to know that in the last 5 months these armed bands of Somozist counterrevolutionaries, who operate from Honduras have entered our territory and have razed the communities of Raiti, Alamikamba, (Cuscutara), and (Supiyara) in the northern part of Zelaya Department. They have gone into (El Eximio), (El Cuadro) and Las Brisas in the Departments of Chinandega and Nueva Segovia leaving a tragic toll of 67 dead and 20 wounded among civilians and military.

Today, at 0130 this morning, an attack was launched from Honduras against the Nicaraguan border post of (Letova). As a result of this aggression, the warehouses of the Nicaraguan customs house were burned. At 0430 today, counterrevolutionary bands from Honduran territory attacked the Nicaraguan border post of (El Sacatol) located 8 km northwest of the town of Cinco Pinos in Chinandega Department.

That is why we want you to know that in the Honduran Department of El Paraiso, on the border with Nicaragua, about 700 Somozist guardsmen are concentrated in several camps. In the zone of (Cacamuya) there are 60 more counterrevolutionaries and in Lempira Department in Honduras' Atlantic region on the border with Nicaragua there are several Somozist counterrevolutionary camps which contain more than 1,000 men.

Beginning on 15 March this year, these camps have been receiving larger amounts of weapons and military supplies, which include hundreds of FAL and M-16 rifles, demolition and fragmentation grenades, grenade launchers and other (?supplies). Some days ago a U.S. television newscast presented a documentary in which U.S. and Argentine officers appeared. Many of the Argentine officers had been discharged recently because the army of that country is training Somozist counterrevolutionaries and Latin American mercenaries in Honduras.

We want you to know that on Friday, 19 March, Mr Noel Ernesto Vasquez Gutierrez asked for asylum in the Nicaraguan Embassy in Honduras and was subsequently snatched from the protection of our embassy and kidnapped by the Honduran authorities. Mr Vasquez was able to denounce to the media of that country that he had been recruited in California to enlist in the Somozist counterrevolutionary groups which operate freely in Honduras. He said that in the places he visited he was able to count up to 22 Argentine officers commanded by Col (Santiago Villegas) and involved in conspiratorial activities against Nicaragua. In a discredited and clumsy maneuver, this same person was presented subsequently on an official television program of the Honduran armed forces stating just the opposite, forced to make up a story to implicate Nicaragua.

We want you to know that in recent days there has been an increase in aggressive actions by units of the Honduran and Salvadoran navies against Nicaraguan fishing vessels which have left a toll of one dead and one wounded. These actions have occurred primarily in the Gulf of Fonseca as a result of the campaign of accusations regarding the alleged arms traffic from Nicaragua to El Salvador via that route. This has contributed to the increase of border tensions in those waters.

We must also mention the provocation of 21 March, when four Honduran Air Force planes attacked a Nicaraguan ship protecting our sea resources in Nicaraguan territorial waters.

It is unbelievable that official State Department spokesmen have said stubbornly that the Honduran Army had a right to take this action, thus getting involved and disregarding the nonintervention attitude they should maintain in order to contribute to detente between Honduras and Nicaragua.

You probably know that the United States has decided to build naval and air bases in Honduras. The first will be built on the island of (Mafari). It will be then that the treaty legalizing the U.S. military presence in Honduras will be signed. This fact, which affects peace and security in the Central American region, is the premeditated result of the continuous campaign regarding an alleged military buildup in Nicaragua unleashed against our country. You probably know that on 19 March the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa officially admitted that there are at least 71 U.S. officers in Honduras. Such a force is without precedent in that country. The destroyer "Caron," a U.S. Navy ship with sophisticated electronic espionage equipment, has been stationed off Nicaragua's Pacific coast near the Gulf of Fonesca. This ship has been on an espionage mission, as has been publicly admitted by the U.S. Government. We want you to know about the visits Mr Thomas Enders made to Latin America at the end of February and the beginning of March to organize an inter-American peace force that would be ready to intervene in the area.

U.S. newspapers, magazines and other media have reported that the U.S. National Security Council has approved a $19-million budget to promote destabilization efforts and secret operations that imply, among other things, economic sabotage, attacks, the training of Somozist counterrevolutionary groups and the sending of arms to these groups. No U.S. spokesman or authority has ever denied these reports. On the contrary, those who have referred to the reports have either done so in a dubious manner or have confirmed them. Moreover, it was after these reports that we began to suffer terrorist actions -- bombs in airplanes and at civilian airports -- that have resulted in death and injuries, the destruction of bridges and the increase in the actions of the counterrevolutionary bands, such as the so-called [words indistinct] operations along the Coco River that resulted in the deaths of more than 60 of my countrymen who were murdered.

We want you to know that since 14 March the Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone has been carrying out exercises that involve forces from the United States as well as troops of the 193d Infantry Brigade, which is part of that command. Pressure is being exerted in the OAS to secure resolutions to legalize intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

We want you to know that from June 1981 to 11 March of this year we have been the victims of 40 violations of our airspace by RC-135 planes of the U.S. Air Force. The air violations we have detected took place as follows: On 28 July 1981; on 2, 9, 13, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28 and 30 October 1981; and on 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 16 November 1981. On 7 November there were two flights instead of one. In December there were two flights, one on 12 December and the other on 30 December. There was another flight on 3 January 1982. There were six flights in February, on 2, 4, 10, 16, 24, and 27 February. In March already there have been four flights, on 4, 8, 10 and 11 March.

All these flights have been along the Pacific coast of Nicaragua and along our borders with Honduras and Costa Rica. It is curious that there were 10 flights in October and 10 in November 1981, at the very moment both Mr Reagan and Mr Haig were announcing the possibility of immediate and overwhelming military action against Nicaragua.

Under what international law does the U.S. Government take on itself the right to spy in our territory and to violate our airspace?

We want you to know that when Adm Bobby Inman, deputy director of the CIA, and Mr John Hughes, deputy director of the Pentagon's intelligence agency, presented alleged evidence of the arms race in Nicaragua to the press and the U.S. public, they were admitting officially that there had been espionage in Nicaraguan territory. They justified this activity by alleging a Nicaraguan arms buildup that, taken in the context of the real military situation in the region, is not a buildup. Our military resources are the most modest in the region. We don't have an air force. However, Nicaragua is being encircled with military bases and there is a continuous and hostile warlike environment that includes spy ships and planes and naval maneuvers.

Ours is the only country in Central America over which there hangs a permanent threat by U.S. military power. The only military power we have for the defense of our fatherland is our people's organized and determined fighting spirit. Ours is the only government in Central America that can safely put rifles in the hands of its people.

We want you to know that the U.S. State Department [words indistinct] aimed at gathering evidence at any expense to justify the interventionist actions against Nicaragua, on 12 March presented to U.S. news media the Nicaraguan citizen Orlando Jose Tardencilla. He had been a prisoner of the Salvadoran Army for over a year, and was taken from the jail in San Salvador to the U.S. State Department offices. This was an act which had no precedent regarding the violation of legal norms [words indistinct] and the minimum respect due to the sovereignty and independence of El Salvador.

U.S. citizens must ask themselves if these actions are not serious violations to their own laws: The participation and complicity in the kidnapping of a person; coercion and threats to force a person to lie and to testify against his own will; threats to the life and physical integrity of a person -- accessory, accomplice, coercion and physical torture.

We want all of you to know that at 2244 on 14 March, two strategic bridges for the country's defense and communications were sabotaged with explosives. One was the bridge over Rio Negro, which was totally destroyed, and the other was the Rio Seco bridge which suffered considerable damage to its structure and cannot be used for vehicular traffic. Both bridges are in the department that borders with Honduras. These criminal actions once more confirm the implementation of undercover operations promoted by the CIA and approved by the U.S. State Department.

These accusations were confirmed once more on 16 March when Edwin Meese, counsellor to the president, was asked by U.S. newsmen if the destruction of the bridges represented the implementation of the undercover action plan. He answered that this is the kind of action we cannot confirm nor deny under any circumstances, because in any case we cannot discard what [words indistinct] for any other situation.

The situation still is worse if we recall that on 15 February President Reagan was asked by the Washington POST about the approval of undercover political and paramilitary plans against Nicaragua and instead of categorically denying such actions, he refused to comment on the news.

There is more. A veteran soldier of the U.S. Army Green Berets, who fought in the Vietnam War, told the CBS Television Network that his former commander had tried to recruit him to participate in mercenary operations in Nicaragua under a $50,000 contract for a period of 6 months. He said that many former Green Berets had already accepted.

We want you to know that already in November 1981, the U.S. Southern Command, located in the Panama Canal Zone [as heard], completed electronic coverage of our country to monitor, control and even to distort and interrupt all communications on our national territory, using Phantom F-4C reconnaissance planes, AWACS and RC-135 planes in these operations which have no precedent in Central America.

We also want you to know that three companies of former Somozist Guards are being taught parachuting and the handling of explosives by Green Beret instructors -- their training having begun in the eastern sector of the Panama Canal Zone in October 1981. Gen Wallace Nutting, chief of the Southern Command, has been to these camps.

The Panama Canal Zone, under the jurisdiction of the Southern Command, is being used by the Argentine Army as a midpoint for an airlift between Buenos Aires and El Salvador to transport an Argentine airborne brigade, advisers, equipment and arms. More than 45 flights of this type have taken place in the last 4 months. There are 20 Argentine military instructors at Ft Gulick training special Salvadoran troops.

Mrs President and members of the Security Council, all these elements essentially forced us to adopt special measures on 15 March to defend our country's integrity, decreeing a state of national emergency. Apart from these aggressive actions, we must recognize and support the effort made some months ago by the Governments of Mexico and France to try to find a political solution to the crisis in Central America. To these efforts we must add the constant support for the proposal for overall negotiations for peace in the Central American and Caribbean region firmly made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo with a Latin American spirit on 21 February in Managua.

In order to find an adequate solution to the situation in Central America, it is indispensable to have the participation of the United States, of the feuding parties in El Salvador, of Cuba and Nicaragua. This has been accepted by the revolutionary Government of Cuba, by the revolutionaries of the FMLN and of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, and by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua.

Since then the U.S. Government has started a series of meetings with representatives of the Mexican Government. After a round of meetings with Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda, Mr Alexander Haig made public a five-point proposal aimed at beginning talks with Nicaragua after the elections to be held on 28 March in El Salvador.

The sole fact that the United States publicly announces its willingness to negotiate with Nicaragua based on those points could be considered encouraging, but is is contradictory at the same time, as I have been showing throughout this speech, because the aggressive and destabilizing actions against Nicaragua by the U.S. administration have been increasing dramatically.

We are forced to state to this council that in the days immediately before and after 28 March, the date of the announced elections in El Salvador, the predictions of imminent intervention are more than justified. On the basis of the previously described facts, we must state that while the United States publicly announces its willingness to enter into negotiations, the alternative of aggression had begun to be developed even before.

Independent of these considerations, the five points announced by Mr Haig do not deal completely with the problem of seeking and finding realistic solutions. That proposal does not take into account that the essential problem of the crisis in Central America is not in the never-proven allegation that weapons are being sent to the Salvadoran revolutionaries through Nicaragua while on the other hand the United States is supplying weapons, planes, helicopters, advisers, technical support and accelerated military training to the Salvadorans; on the contrary, it must be accepted with responsibility that the causes lie in the prevailing injustice in El Salvador and that therefore the possibilities for the transformation demanded by Salvadoran society must be found urgently through negotiations.

It is inconceivable that the country that is carrying out the biggest arms race and making the largest arms expenditures in mankind's history should demand that we not meet the minimum needs for the defense of our nation. Nicaragua rejects the U.S. attempt to impose humiliating restrictions on its inalienable prerogatives related to national defense. We are sure no sovereign country of the world would accept such a thing.

This attitude is even less justified when Nicaragua, as a revolutionary country, has proclaimed categorically that it will never use its weapons against any sister country in Latin America or the Caribbean.

On this occasion we reiterate this commitment and our willingness to sign nonaggression pacts or treaties with all the countries of the area. We believe we are all obliged to seek solutions to the problems in the region through negotiations and the political path and never to consider that the possibility of negotiations has been exhausted. We think all efforts must be directed at finding replies that are in accordance with reality and that permit us to begin negotiations immediately, thus ruling out all preconditions.

We want you to know that the U.S. Government has converted the legislative elections in El Salvador -- one more of so many elections held on the continent under the sponsorship of military leaderships -- into an issue absurdly crucial to its own interests. But the extreme tension resulting from the confrontation of the forces in conflict in that country at the time of the elections should not lead the U.S. Government to impose the reply of armed intervention, especially in the face of the foreseeable failure of those elections. I repeat: The extreme tension resulting from the confrontation of the forces in conflict in that country at the time of the elections should not lead the U.S. Government to impose armed intervention, especially in the face of the foreseeable failure of those elections. On the contrary, those circumstances should confirm the urgent need for a political solution through negotiations. The peoples of the region demand a negotiated political solution. The peoples of Latin America and the honorable governments demand a negotiated political solution. The peoples and governments of the world are waiting for a negotiated political solution.

We do not want to see ourselves forced to resist and struggle to defeat a foreign intervention with the strength that peoples achieve when they are invaded, the same strength that in 1776 led the North Americans to obtain their independence. We have not come to make accusations but to demand an end, once and for all, to the policy of aggression, threats, intervention, covert operations and invasions of our fatherland and the region. Let it be understood that the resources of mankind, unjustly distributed on our planet, do not give the powerful the right to act against the weak and small countries.

Finally, I wish to sum up in this speech specific points that were previously outlined during my appearance at the 36th session of the General Assembly in October 1981 and in the FSLN proposal to the Permanent Conference of Latin American Parties, COPPPAL, which met in Managua on 19 February 1982. These points are:

1. Neither Nicaragua nor any other country in the Central American or Caribbean region can be considered the geopolitical reserve of the United States, or part of its so-called strategic borders. This concept restricts the exercise of our sovereignty and independence.

2. Nicaragua cannot, therefore, represent any threat to the security of the United States. We are a small, dignified and poor country that follows a policy of nonalignment internationally. The national interests of the U.S. people and nation should not be confused with the particular policy of the present administration which is trying to impose its viewpoints, even at the cost of the tranquillity and security of its own citizens and of the entire conglomerate of countries that, like ours, have the right to decide their own destinies.

3. We are prepared to improve the climate of our relations with the United States based on mutual respect and the unconditional recognition of our right to self-determination.

4. We are prepared to immediately initiate direct and frank talks with the U.S. Government, and even to do so in a third country chosen by common agreement in order to have these negotiations lead to specific results.

For the memory of the millions of men who have died in wars throughout history; for the memory of the millions of men who were tortured and murdered in Nazi concentration camps during World War II; for the memory of the thousands of patriots who have died in liberation wars against colonialism, racism and oppression; for the memory of the Central American patriots who have died struggling for independence, justice and peace; for the right of the people to be free, sovereign and independent and for the right of mankind to have peace, let there be peace in Central America.

Ortega Seeks Nonaligned Support

PA252023 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, received [recogio] the support of the nonaligned countries in the event of a possible intervention by the United States in Central America.

Ortega went to New York to denounce the U.S. threats of intervention in Nicaragua before the UN Security Council. In a meeting with delegates of the nonaligned countries at the United Nations, Ortega said that the United States has not understood the Nicaraguan revolution, nor does it understand that Central America has been hampered because of the need for social change.

Ortega said that Washington's obstinate refusal to understand this situation has caused Central America to become a dangerous center of tension affecting world security.

Ortega noted that Nicaragua, which has limited resources and does not belong to any military pact, is defending its sovereignty and independence by its own efforts, although in the face of a threat of aggression it has to turn to organizations of which it is a member and with which it has similar interests.

For this reason, the Sandinist leader emphasized, we turn to the movement of nonaligned countries, where we have our main bastion and our best friends, from whom we demand solidarity with Central America and Nicaragua to avoid a direct or indirect intervention in our area.

Ortega said that Nicaragua is presenting its concerns to the United Nations because there are no Latin American organizations that truly defend the interests of the peoples in the area. He emphasized that his country has turned to the Security Council to condemn not a country, but the attitudes that affect the sovereignty and independence of peoples.

Delegation With Ortega

PA250326 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The voice of our people and their peace proposal for Central America will be made known to the world tomorrow, when Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, addresses the UN Security Council.

Daniel Ortega will present a number of views on the Central American situation. He will refer to U.S. imperialism's threats of imminent aggression against the Nicaraguan revolution and also to our government's peace proposal for the area. Ortega hopes that his proposal will make the U.S. Government change its attitude.

The Nicaraguan official delegation accompanying Commander Ortega to New York is formed by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Rodrigo Reyes, secretary minister of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, Leon Herdocia, high level Foreign Ministry official, Julio Lopez, FSLN international relations director, Rita Delia Casco, Capt Roberto Sanchez and Ernesto Aloma.

U.S. REPORTEDLY HATCHED, DIRECTED GUATEMALA COUP

PA242259 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Guatemalan Government headed by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia was overthrown this afternoon in a coup d'etat by the armed forces. This action might very well be linked to the U.S. strategy in the Central American area.

These events cannot be regarded as isolated from the Reagan administration's efforts to improve its damaged sociopolitical image in Central America, which is rejected by large sectors of the U.S. Congress and people themselves.

Over the past few years repression and genocide have been on the rise in Guatemala, and it is estimated that tens of thousands of persons have been murdered by the army and paramilitary forces.

Within this situation, elections were held on 7 March that the people's organizations termed beforehand as a macabre farce. The government candidate, Gen Anibal Guevara, was the winner in these elections. All the other presidential candidates, nominated by organizations which had no popular backing or representation, denounced the fraud, and a veritable dogfight ensued.

In Washington President Reagan was having trouble trying to justify to Congress his intention to resume military aid to the Guatemalan Government. Reagan even went so far as to say that respect for human rights was improving in Guatemala, when reports from international organizations were showing just the opposite, and at a time when the U.S. Congress and people were increasing their protects against Reagan's interventionist policy in Central America and his support for repressive governments.

Within this framework, political observers believe that this coup d'etat was planned and directed by the U.S. Government to put into power an apparently moderate government that will portray a new international image, helping to allay the protests from the U.S. and world communities against Reagan's attitude.

On this subject it is noteworthy that in the communique issued today by the coupists they state their intention to change Guatemala's damaged image and to respect the human rights of all Guatemalans. Up until this afternoon there was no knowledge of the whereabouts of Gen Anibal Guevara, who was going to be inaugurated as president in July.

D'ESCOTO COMMENTS ON U.S. AGGRESSIVE POLICY

PA251625 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman said yesterday in New York that in order for a real dialogue to exist between the United States and our country, the U.S. administration must put an end to other options. Asked what other options he was referring to, the minister said that the Reagan administration has never discarded the use of force and promotes an aggressive policy against Central America. However, he added, for more than a year we have been proposing some of the things that are currently being done. This was an allusion to the efforts undertaken by Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda.

Minister d'Escoto Brockman is in the party that left yesterday for New York, accompanying Government Junta Coordinator Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who will denounce U.S. plans of aggression and military invasion against Nicaragua at the United Nations today.

HAVANA LISTS CONDITIONS FOR TALKS WITH U.S.

PA251233 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Havana, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Observers in Havana noted today that Cuba is still willing to participate in every peace effort in Central America, but will continue its diplomatic action in all directions to obtain condemnation of the U.S. "aggressive" policy in this region of the world. The Cuban position does not seem to have changed following Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda's visit to Havana last week.

According to different sources, Cuba has a keen interest in the Mexican proposal and in starting new conversations with the United States, but on four conditions:

1. That the United States commit itself to refraining from attacking its neighbors.
2. That the United States stop its "continuous threats."
3. That it terminate aid to the "genocidal" regimes of Central America.
4. That is stop all of its "subversive" activities.

According to several observers, the conditions set by Cuba are flexible enough to leave the door open in the future, either to possible negotiations with the United States or to an end to all chances of dialogue.

The last direct talks between Cuba and the United States took place on 23 November in Mexico, when U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig met with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, one of the Cuban Government's vice presidents. However, nothing was learned about the conversation that the two men held. For the time being, in any event, the Cuban authorities declined to comment on the mission of "good offices" to Cuba on Saturday and Sunday undertaken by Castaneda.

U.S. APPROVES 'SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA' STATION

FL260145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] As a further demonstration of the U.S. policy of interference, the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has approved the establishment of a radio station aimed at spreading subversive propaganda against Cuba. The committee approved the proposal to place this center for subversive propaganda under the U.S. Board of International Broadcasting which also operates Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, instruments of antisocialist sabotage with close ties to the CIA.

In order to defray the costs of the equipment for anti-Cuban propaganda, Washington has granted $17.7 million annually, part of which will also go to finance other private U.S. stations presently conducting subversive psychological warfare against our country.

U.S. HAND SEEN IN BACKGROUND OF GUATEMALA COUP

FL250225 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The only one to benefit from the military coup in Guatemala is the U.S. Government. The continuing deterioration of the Guatemalan situation, along with the total failure of the electoral farce of 7 March, were the detonators of the coup, by which Washington is trying to assure the control it has been exercising in that country since the CIA overthrew the progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz in 1954. The head of the rebellion, Gen Efrain Rios Montt, represents again a trial solution to the crisis through the Christian Democratic Party, a formula that the present administration of President Ronald Reagan clings to, despite the failure of Napoleon Duarte in El Salvador.

Rios Montt, who was accompanied in this coup adventure by other Guatemalan military leaders, spoke last night on television against the dictatorship of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, condemned the petty politicians, confirmed the failure of the 7 March electoral farce and threatened to kill the guerrillas who are very active in the country. The military officers who accompanied Rios Montt are mainly young officers and military sectors displaced by the governing clique. Also they have nothing to do with Gen Anibal Guevara, who was proclaimed by the congress as the winner -- in quotes -- of the 7 March farce. Wide sectors of the corrupt bureaucracy of the country and national capitalist sectors, who were affected by the Coban mafia, which accumulated power and money due to the political monopoly exercised by Gen Romeo Lucas and his people, joined the coupists. The name of the mafia comes from the fact that the former president was born in Coban, Alta Verapaz, in the northern part of the country.

The fact that among the first to applaud the military coup were the genocidal Salvadoran junta and the Venezuelan governing party, COPEI, is a sign that lets us interpret better what occurred in Guatemala yesterday. Washington became aware that after the 7 March electoral farce and the arbitrary designation of Anibal Guevara as winner, he would not be able to govern because he was being fought by the right and by the armed people. It then sought the formula of a coup, with Christian Democrat Rios Montt, who began exercising power, repeatedly invoking God, dissolving the congress and suspending the constitution.

There are other signs that help one analyze the forces behind the military coup in Guatemala: A sinister personality called Leonel Sisniega Otero, who was a vice presidential candidate in the 7 March farce. Sisniega accompanied the well-known assassin Mario Sandoval Alarcon, who ran for the presidency and is leader of the National Liberation Movement founded by the CIA in 1954 to serve as a front for the mercenary Col Castillo Armas, who headed the coup against Arbenz. Sisniega Otero, a proven CIA agent and a figure who has always maintained magnificent relations with the Yankees, is the civilian among the coupists. It is being said that he may be the next president in a new government which will repeat in Guatemala the formula of El Salvador, with Napolean Duarte and the military officers surrounding him.

As can be seen, the fascist group governing the United States is determined to turn its back on reality and continues to support the military road, the road of violence, to resolve the problems in Central America, the Caribbean and the world, without taking into account that the people are following a different road.

FOOD TRADE WORKERS TO FIGHT CRIME IN INDUSTRY

FL231241 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Commerce and food trade workers are meeting throughout the country this week to discuss their trade union's appeal to fight criminal manifestations. It was reported in Sancti Spiritus that more than 12,000 workers will take part in these meetings and voice their support for measures to be taken against the minority that is harming the prestige and (?performance) of the commerce and food trade workers.

It was reported in Pinar del Rio that several persons charged with embezzlement were sentenced to 5 or 2 years in prison, including two managers and one middleman. (Nelson Cruz Montesino), the manager of a pilot drugstore in Pinar del Rio, misappropriated 13,000 pesos by forging documents controlling internal operations in the unit. (Pedro Lorenzo Pilotos), manager of the (Pavito) restaurant, took more than 1,200 pesos and restaurant products, while citizen (Bernardo Acosta Diaz) acted as middleman for meat sales in the Pinar del Rio peasant free market using an authorization issued to another person.